

U. of Del. acknowledges Grange gifts

NEWARK, Del. — Officials of the University of Delaware and Delaware State Grange toured the College of Agricultural Sciences' soil test facilities recently during a ceremony to recognize recent Grange contributions—including a \$5,000 gift which has made it possible to upgrade the college's soil test reporting system.

During the visit, current Grange Master Willis Passmore and former master Claude Hoffman inspected the new soils test laboratory in Worrlow Hall. A plaque commemorates their organization's gift. Representing the University were President E. Arthur Trabant, ag college dean Donald F. Crossan, associate dean William J. Benton and Extension director Samuel M. Gwinn.

Crossan said the Grange donation has made it possible to completely revise the college's soil testing computer program, adding a terminal and printer for exclusive use in reporting test results. Upgrading the program required the full-time services of a computer programmer who worked closely with soil and crop scientists for six months.

Results of this effort will be updated fertilizer and liming recommendations correlated to various crop sequence possibilities and stated in language easier for users to understand. The new reporting system is now being field-tested and will go into effect in January 1983.

The University of Delaware soil testing laboratory routinely handles about 7,000 soil samples a year—5,000 from farmers and 2,000 from homeowners. An additional 2,000 samples a year come from

Agricultural Experiment Station research projects and Cooperative Extension Service demonstrations, along with samples from the college's teaching program.

"The Grange gift will result in greater precision and efficiency in carrying out this important function," Crossan said.

In acknowledging the Grange's generosity, Crossan noted that the farmer organization has long supported agricultural programs at the university. It was instrumental in establishing the Delaware Agricultural Experiment in 1888. Before the college acquired its own experimental farm in 1908, scientists used Grangers' farms for field trials and large-scale crop experiments.

The Grange also supported the establishment of the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service a few years later and pushed for state appropriations to help pay Delaware's first county agents. Since then, it has consistently supported the college's educational and research efforts.

During the 1970s, Grange members actively supported legislation which funded the construction of the college's new research/teaching facility, Worrlow Hall. They also voted to contribute \$5,000 toward the long-awaited building. College administrators decided to use this money for the soil test laboratory.

In addition to this support, the Grange recently contributed \$2,800 toward the publication of an extension bulletin now being prepared on the use of planter fertilizer in the production of field corn.

For the past four years, the Grange has also contributed \$400 a year to send a deserving 4-H

member to the National 4-H Club congress in Chicago. For many years it has annually given two

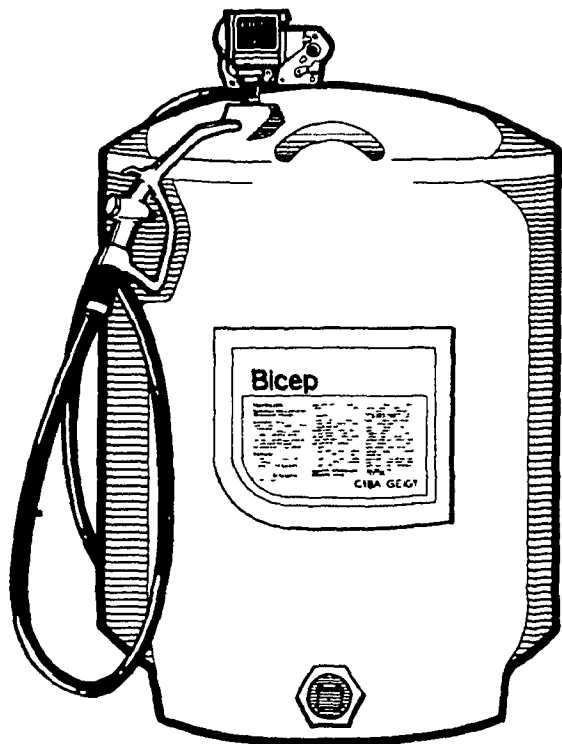
\$500 scholarships, one in agriculture and the other in home economics.



Former Delaware Grange Master Claude Hoffman, left, current Master Willis Passmore and University of Delaware president E. Arthur Trabant look over computer-produced soil test report which the university lab will use after Jan. 1. A grange gift helped upgrade present system.

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